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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW WORKSHOP
SET SATURDAY AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Bureau of Government Research (BGR) and the State Commission on Local Government, in conjunction with Rocky Mountain College, Billings, will present the fifth in a statewide series of local government review workshops at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, in the Fortan Theater on the RMC campus. The workshop series is partially funded under a grant to the Bureau from Community Service Programs, Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The 1972 Montana Constitution requires that citizens in counties, cities and incorporated towns throughout the state elect citizen-delegates to local government study commissions to conduct a review of existing forms of local government, determine their strengths and weaknesses and submit one alternative form of local government to a vote of local citizens in 1976.

Dr. Lauren S. McKinsey, project coordinator, expects prospective government study commissioners, city and county officials and interested citizens from 10 central Montana counties to attend the session. Following opening remarks by Dr. James Taylor, RMC dean, workshop participants will attend a series of lectures followed by group discussions designed to provide background and instructional information concerning the local government review mandate.

Tom Ask, Roundup, delegate to the Montana Constitutional Convention, will discuss "The Constitutional Background of Voter Review" from 9-9:30 a.m. From 9:30-10:30 a.m., Polly Prchal, Billings alderperson, and Dr. McKinsey, a BGR staff member, will speak on the function of local officials and study commission members involved in the review. Five speakers will discuss "The Legal Requirements, Roles and Resources of the Review" from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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Harold Gerke, Billings, chairman of the State Commission on Local Government, and Carol Ferguson, a commission staff member, will explain the role of the State Commission in the review. Louie Yovetich, Laurel mayor, and Mae Jenkins, Yellowstone County treasurer, will explain the procedure involved if two or more study commissions combine to conduct a cooperative local government review. Howard Schwartz of the BGR will explain the citizen's role in the review.

Following a no-host luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m., Dr. Thomas Payne, Missoula, a member of the State Commission on Local Government and professor of political science at the University of Montana, will discuss existing local government structures and service arrangements.

Dave Wanzenried and Mike Sehestedt, staff members of the Commission on Local Government, will talk about consolidation, charter-writing, self-government powers and possible alternative local government forms. Two sections will be formed to discuss "Possibilities for Change in Montana's Counties and Municipalities" from 2:45-4 p.m.

According to Dr. Peter Koehn, project director, a second series of workshops for study commission members will be conducted by the BGR Voter Review Education Project in the spring of 1975.

The public is encouraged to attend all workshop sessions.

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